

but also human rights, economic cooperation and environmental protection.

In submitting this report, I want to stress the value of American engagement in world affairs, particularly by Members of Congress. In Kyiv, we engaged in a dialogue on issues of concern not only to us, but to our counterparts from other countries. Having served as the President of the OSCE PA, I remain active as President Emeritus as well as a Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs. Senator CARDIN serves as a Vice President. In Kyiv, our colleague HILDA SOLIS was elected Vice Chair of the "Third" Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. Members of the U.S. delegation introduced resolutions, suggested amendments and participated in the voting which led to the adoption of a declaration. The text of the declaration can be found on the Assembly's Website, www.oscepa.org.

Our activity was not confined to the meeting halls. We also met President Yushchenko and other Ukrainian officials, in recognition of the importance of Ukraine. We laid wreaths at Babyn Yar and at the Ukrainian Famine memorial. We traveled to Chernobyl, the site of the nuclear accident in 1986.

These activities, I would argue, advance our country's national interest. The U.S. Delegation represented the wonderful diversity of the United States population. It also highlighted a diversity of opinion on numerous issues. It nevertheless revealed a common hope to make the world a better place, not just for Americans but for all humanity. The delegation helped to counter the negative image many have about our country.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to thank you for designating me to head the U.S. Delegation to the Sixteenth Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA), and to report to you on the work of our bipartisan delegation. The delegation participated fully in the activity of the Standing Committee and the plenary sessions as well as in the Assembly's three committees.

Joining me as Delegation leaders were Commission Co-Chairman Senator Benjamin L. Cardin and Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer. Other Helsinki Commissioners who also participated include the Ranking Member, Rep. Christopher H. Smith, and Representatives Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Robert B. Aderholt, Mike McIntyre, Hilda L. Solis and G.K. Butterfield. They were joined by Representatives Marcy Kaptur, Michael R. McNulty, Doris Matsui and Gwen S. Moore.

This year's Assembly, hosted by the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's Parliament, in Kyiv, July 5-9, brought together 234 parliamentarians from 50 OSCE States, representatives from several Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, as well as delegates representing Afghanistan, a Partner for Cooperation. Five delegations were headed by parliamentary leaders. The U.S. delegation, with 13 Members, was the largest in Kyiv. The designated theme for this year's Annual Session was "Implementation of OSCE Commitments."

Assembly President Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) opened the Inaugural Plenary Session which included an address by Ukrainian

President Viktor Yushchenko, who took the opportunity to discuss Ukraine's commitment to democratic development and challenges. President Yushchenko urged delegates to recognize, in their respective parliaments, the genocidal nature of the Ukraine Famine, the Holodomor. OSCE Chairman-in-Office Miguel Angel Moratinos, the Foreign Minister of Spain, also addressed the plenary before taking questions from the parliamentarians.

At the Standing Committee, the leadership body of the Assembly composed of the Heads of Delegations representing the 56 OSCE participating States, I presented a summary of my activities as Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, including my visits in June to Israel and Jordan. During the Kyiv meeting, I convened a special meeting on the Mediterranean Dimension of the OSCE, attended by approximately 100 parliamentarians from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, and Jordan as well as many of the OSCE participating States.

The Standing Committee also heard reports from other Assembly Special Representatives. The OSCE PA Treasurer, Senator Jerry Grafstein (Canada), reported that the Assembly was operating well within its overall budget guidelines and that KPMG, the Assembly's external auditors, again had delivered a positive assessment of the Assembly's financial management. The Standing Committee unanimously approved the Treasurer's proposed budget for fiscal year 2007/2008, including an increase of 4.18% over last year's expenditures. OSCE PA Secretary General R. Spencer Oliver reported on the International Secretariat's activities.

Members of the U.S. Delegation actively participated in the work of the Assembly's three General Committees: Political Affairs and Security; Economic Affairs, Science, Technology and Environment; and Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Each committee considered its own resolution as well as nine of the 10 supplementary items registered before the session. One supplementary item was debated in plenary. Senator Cardin introduced a supplementary item on "Combating Anti-Semitism, Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of Intolerance against Muslims and Roma," and seven other U.S. delegates introduced a total of 25 amendments to either a committee resolution or to a supplementary item. All were adopted.

The U.S. Delegation also was instrumental in garnering necessary support for supplementary items and amendments proposed by our friends and allies among the participating States. The supplementary items considered and debated in Kyiv, other than Senator Cardin's, included "The Role and the Status of the Parliamentary Assembly within the OSCE"; "The Illicit Air Transport of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition"; "Environmental Security Strategy"; "Conflict Settlement in the OSCE area"; Strengthening OSCE Engagement with Human Rights Defenders and National Human Rights Institutions"; "The Ban on Cluster Bombs"; "Liberalization of Trans-Atlantic Trade"; "Women in Peace and Security"; and, "Strengthening of Counteraction of Trafficking Persons in the OSCE Member States."

Attached is a copy of the Kyiv Declaration adopted by participants at the Assembly's closing plenary, which includes the input of the U.S. Delegation.

Following her appearance before the Helsinki Commission in Washington on June 21 during our hearing on "Guantánamo: Implications for U.S. Human Rights Leadership," Belgian Senate President Anne-Marie Lizin, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Guantánamo, presented her third report on

the status of the camp to a general Plenary Session of the Assembly. This report followed her second visit to the detention facility at Guantánamo on June 20, 2007 and gave the Assembly a balanced presentation which concluded that the facility should be closed.

The OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Tone Tingstgård (Sweden), hosted an informal working breakfast to discuss gender issues where she presented her plan for future actions addressing gender issues within the OSCE PA. Members of the U.S. Delegation participated in the discussion at this meeting.

During the course of the Kyiv meeting members of the U.S. Delegation held a series of formal as well as informal bilateral meetings, including talks with parliamentarians from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, parliamentary delegations from the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation, including Israel, and Afghanistan. The U.S. Delegation hosted a reception for parliamentary delegations from Canada and the United Kingdom.

On the final day of the Kyiv meeting, the Assembly re-elected Göran Lennmarker (Sweden) as President. Mr. Hans Raidel (Germany) was elected Treasurer. Four Vice Presidents were elected in Kyiv: Anne-Marie Lizin (Belgium), Jerry Grafstein (Canada), Kimmo Kiljunen (Finland), and Panos Kammenos (Greece).

Rep. Hilda Solis was elected Vice Chair of the General Committee on Democracy, Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, which is responsible for addressing humanitarian and human rights-related threats to security and serves as a forum for examining the potential for cooperation within these areas. She joins Senator Cardin, whose term as Vice President extends until 2009, and me as OSCE PA President Emeritus, in ensuring active U.S. engagement in the Assembly's proceedings for the coming year.

While the Delegation's work focused heavily on OSCE PA matters, the venue presented an opportunity to advance U.S. relations with our Ukrainian hosts. While in Kyiv, the U.S. Delegation met with Ukrainian President Yushchenko for lengthy talks on bilateral issues, his country's aspirations for further Euro-Atlantic integration, energy security, international support for Chernobyl containment, and challenges to Ukraine's sovereignty and democratic development. The President discussed the political situation in Ukraine and the development of the May 27 agreement that provides for pre-term parliamentary elections scheduled for September 30, 2007.

The Delegation also visited and held wreath-laying ceremonies at two significant sites in the Ukrainian capital: the Babyn Yar Memorial, commemorating the more than 100,000 Ukrainians killed there during World War II—including 33,000 Jews from Kyiv that were shot in a two-day period in September 1941; and the Famine Genocide Memorial (1932-33) dedicated to the memory of the millions of Ukrainians starved to death by Stalin's Soviet regime in the largest man-made famine of the 20th century.

The delegation traveled to the Chernobyl exclusion zone and visited the site where on April 26, 1986, the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded, resulting in the world's worst nuclear accident. While in the zone, the delegation visited the abandoned city of Prypiat, the once bustling residence of 50,000 located a short distance from the nuclear plant. Members toured the Chernobyl facilities and discussed ongoing economic and environmental challenges with local experts and international efforts to find a durable solution to the containment of large quantities of radioactive materials still located at the plant.